

MAR 8 - 2019

S.C.R. NO. 128

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE COSTS OF INSTALLING AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER
SYSTEMS IN ONE- AND TWO- FAMILY DWELLINGS.

1 WHEREAS, fire departments nation-wide responded to more
2 than 50,000 home structure fires in 2015, resulting in more than
3 2,500 fatalities, 11,000 injuries, and over \$7,000,000,000 in
4 direct damages; and

5
6 WHEREAS, eighty-five percent of all United States fire
7 deaths occur in the home with those at greatest risk being
8 adults over sixty-five years of age, children under five, and
9 people with disabilities; and

10
11 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu alone, there
12 were 1,068 structure fires from 2006 to 2015, resulting in
13 twenty-seven civilian deaths, one hundred fifty-two civilian
14 injuries, and over \$100,000,000 in direct damages; and

15
16 WHEREAS, automatic fire sprinklers have been in service for
17 over one hundred fifty years with great success in saving lives,
18 protecting property, and preserving natural resources; and

19
20 WHEREAS, automatic fire sprinklers operate effectively over
21 eighty-five percent of the time, thereby reducing civilian
22 deaths by eighty-three percent, civilian fire injuries by fifty-
23 three percent, firefighter injuries by sixty-five percent,
24 property damage by sixty-nine percent, greenhouse gas emissions
25 by ninety-seven percent, water usage by fifty to ninety percent,
26 and persistent pollutant levels in waste water samples; and

27
28 WHEREAS, every edition from 2009 to 2015 of the
29 International Building and Residential Codes and the National
30 Fire Protection Association 5000®: Building Construction and
31 Safety Code® mandate fire sprinklers in new one- and two- family
32 dwelling construction; and



WHEREAS, the costs may vary from county to county; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, an investigative committee report provided sprinkler cost estimates for the different counties, but the information used has since become obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Building Industry Association of Hawaii report on the analysis of mandating residential sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings is also obsolete and misleading; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of Representatives concurring, that the State Fire Council is requested to convene a task force to study the costs of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of the following, or their designees:

- (1) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs;
- (2) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Safety;
- (3) The Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting;
- (4) Director of the County of Hawaii Planning Department;
- (5) Director of the County of Maui Department of Planning;
- (6) Director of the County of Kauai Department of Planning;
- (7) Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply;



(8) Manager of the County of Hawaii Department of Water Supply;

(9) Director of the County of Maui Department of Water Supply;

(10) Manager and Chief Engineer of the County of Kauai Department of Water Supply;

(11) A representative from the Building Industry Association of Hawaii;

(12) A representative from the General Contractors Association of Hawaii;

(13) A representative from the American Institute of Architects Honolulu;

(14) A representative from the Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association of Hawaii;

(15) A representative from the Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers; and

(16) A representative from the Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall select a chairperson from among its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation and a comparative analysis of the varying county costs for materials, labor, permits, and other related fees to install automatic fire sprinklers in new one-and two-family dwellings, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; Hawaii Insurance Commissioner; Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of



S.C.R. NO. 128

1 Planning and Permitting; Director of the County of Hawaii
2 Planning Department; Director of the County of Maui Department
3 of Planning; Director of the County of Kauai Department of
4 Planning; Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of
5 Water Supply; Manager of the County of Hawaii Department of
6 Water Supply; Director of the County of Maui Department of Water
7 Supply; Manager and Chief Engineer of the County of Kauai
8 Department of Water Supply; President of the Building Industry
9 Association of Hawaii; President of the General Contractors
10 Association of Hawaii; President of the American Institute of
11 Architects Honolulu; Business Manager of the Plumbing &
12 Mechanical Contractors Association of Hawaii; and Chief
13 Executive of the Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Fire
14 Protection Engineers.

15
16
17 OFFERED BY: Clarence K. Dushikawa

Donna Mercedes K.
Karl Rhoads

